

**ABSTRACT**

A cellular messaging network includes a switching controller connected to the wireless telephone network. One or more base station micro/picocell retransmitters are coupled to the switching controller. The base station micro/picocell transmitter uses simplified control equipment having no digital traffic channel capability. Each base station micro/picocell retransmitter is able to discriminate between voice channel assignment signals and short messaging signals in the digital control channel, discard the voice channel assignment signals, and rebroadcast the short messaging signals in the digital control channel. One or more receivers are coupled to the base station micro/picocell retransmitters by way of an IS-136 protocol digital control channel. The base station micro/picocell retransmitter can be connected to the switching controller through a twisted-pair telephone line.